Dental Negligence Claim: When Can You Make a Claim?

A **dental negligence claim** can help you recover compensation if poor dental treatment caused you pain, injury, or financial loss. While most dentists provide a high standard of care, mistakes can happen. When those mistakes could have been avoided and lead to unnecessary harm, you may have the right to make a claim.

This guide explains what dental negligence is, common examples, what you need to prove, and how the claims process works.

What Is a Dental Negligence Claim?

A **dental negligence claim** is a legal claim made against a dentist or dental professional whose substandard treatment caused avoidable injury or worsened an existing dental condition.

Not every unsuccessful treatment amounts to negligence. A claim usually succeeds only if the dentist failed to provide the standard of care expected from a reasonably competent dental professional, and that failure directly caused harm.

Common Examples of Dental Negligence

Dental negligence can occur in many different situations, including:

- Wrong tooth extraction.
- Failure to diagnose gum disease.
- Delayed diagnosis of oral cancer.
- Poorly performed root canal treatment.
- Incorrect placement of dental implants.
- Nerve damage during treatment.
- Failed crowns, bridges, or fillings due to poor workmanship.
- Inadequate infection control.
- Incorrect orthodontic treatment.
- Failure to obtain informed consent before treatment.

These mistakes may result in severe pain, additional procedures, permanent damage, or emotional distress.

Signs That You May Have a Valid Claim

You may have grounds for a **dental negligence claim** if:

- Your dentist made an avoidable mistake.
- The treatment fell below accepted professional standards.
- You suffered physical, emotional, or financial harm.
- Another dental professional confirms the treatment was negligent.

A solicitor can assess your case and advise whether your claim has a reasonable chance of success.

Injuries Caused by Dental Negligence

Dental negligence may lead to:

- Permanent tooth loss.
- Nerve injuries causing numbness or tingling.
- Jaw damage.
- Severe infections.
- Ongoing pain.
- Difficulty eating or speaking.
- Psychological distress.
- The need for corrective dental treatment.

Some injuries can have long-term effects that require extensive rehabilitation and future dental care.

What Evidence Can Support Your Claim?

Strong evidence improves the likelihood of a successful claim. Useful evidence includes:

- Dental records.
- X-rays and scans.
- Photographs of injuries.
- Expert dental reports.
- Receipts for corrective treatment.
- Proof of lost earnings.
- Witness statements where available.

An experienced solicitor will usually obtain additional expert evidence to support your case.

How Much Compensation Could You Receive?

Compensation depends on the seriousness of your injuries and financial losses.

A successful claim may include compensation for:

- Pain and suffering.
- Corrective dental treatment.
- Future dental care.
- Lost earnings.
- Travel expenses.
- Prescription costs.
- Psychological injury.
- Other related financial losses.

Every case is assessed individually, so compensation amounts vary.

Time Limit for Making a Claim

In most cases, you have **three years** from the date the negligence occurred or from the date you first became aware that negligent treatment caused your injury.

There are exceptions, particularly for children and people who lack mental capacity.

Seeking legal advice as early as possible helps preserve evidence and strengthens your case.

No Win No Fee Dental Negligence Claims

Many solicitors offer **No Win No Fee** agreements for dental negligence claims.

This means you generally do not pay solicitor fees if your claim is unsuccessful, making legal action more accessible for many people.

Always read the agreement carefully so you understand any success fee or other costs that may apply if your claim succeeds.

The Claims Process

The process usually involves:

1. Initial assessment of your case.
2. Review of your dental records.
3. Independent expert dental opinion.
4. Notification to the dentist or dental practice.
5. Negotiation to reach a settlement.
6. Court proceedings if settlement cannot be reached.

Most dental negligence claims are resolved through negotiation without a full court trial.

Why Choose Specialist Solicitors?

Dental negligence cases often involve complex medical evidence. Specialist solicitors understand:

- Dental procedures.
- Medical expert evidence.
- Valuation of compensation.
- Negotiation with insurers.
- Court procedures where necessary.

Their experience can improve the chances of achieving a successful outcome.

Final Thoughts

A **dental negligence claim** can provide compensation for the pain, financial losses, and ongoing treatment caused by avoidable dental mistakes. If you believe negligent dental care has affected your health, obtaining legal advice promptly can help you understand your rights and begin the claims process before important deadlines expire.